



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Case No: N/A

Five Arrests Made for Food Stamp Fraud

On Tuesday, December 3, 2013 Beaverton Police Detectives and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General (USDA-OIG) agents served five arrest warrants four in the City of Beaverton and one in the City of Portland. The warrants are for aggravated theft 1, unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance (SNAP) and perjury.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program (FSP), administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is a United States Department of Agriculture assistance program designed to provide food to low-income families. The FNS authorizes certain grocery stores to accept food stamps and/or credit accrued on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards from authorized recipients for eligible food items. EBT card benefits can be legally used only for the purchase of food.

The investigation into the unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance began in 2009 at the Beaverton Halal Meat and Mediterranean Groceries located on SW Canyon Rd. in Beaverton, Oregon. The investigation showed that the co-owner of the market, Mahmoud Tajgerdu, was allowing SNAP recipients to exchange their benefits for cash in exchange for a fee. In essence, if an individual wanted \$100.00 in cash the store would charge \$125.00 to the SNAP card and the store would keep the \$25 as their fee. The individuals would not purchase any food and would only receive cash. Three employees of the grocery and the 76 gas station that is also owned by Tajgerdu were also involved and have been arrested along with Tajgerdu's daughter.

Mahmoud Tajgerdu 42 years of age from Beaverton
Is charged with nine counts of aggravated theft 1 and nine counts of unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance.

Negin Tajgerdu 23 years of age from Beaverton
Is charged with three counts of perjury.

Bahman Hoshmand 39 years of age from Beaverton
Is charged with nine counts of aggravated theft 1 and nine counts of unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance.

Aziz Darakhshani 38 years of age from Beaverton
Is charged with one count of aggravated theft 1 and one count of unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance.

Rafik Korkut 35 years of age from Portland
Is charged with three counts of aggravated Theft 1 and three counts of unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutritional assistance.

Four of the individuals have been lodged at the Washington County Jail and Korkut was lodged at the Multnomah County Jail.

##BPD##

